

and base wall folding tabs, wherein folding of the end wall folding tabs and base wall folding tabs can be completed in a horizontal folding path adjoining the folding turret, and in that further tacking elements are arranged at the end of the folding path in order to provide the tacking strips in the region of the folded end wall folding tabs and base wall folding tabs.

28. (new) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein following the tacking operation, the outer wrapper first of all can be sealed over the full surface area in the region of the side tabs by a sealing tool and then, in the region of a sealing path, can be sealed over the full surface area on the end wall and base wall by sealing jaws, and in that the packs can then be conveyed through a shrink-wrap station.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

Process for producing packs [(10)] made of thin cardboard with an outer wrapper [(13)] made of shrink-wrap film. Folding tabs [(20, 21; 23, 24, 25, 26)] of the outer wrapper [(13)] are connected to one another by full-surface-area heat sealing. The shrink-wrapping process for the outer wrapper [(13)] may be initiated as a result. In order to ensure a correct form of the outer wrapper [(13)], the folding tabs [(20, 21; 23, 24, 25, 26)], prior to the full-surface-area sealing operation, are connected to one another by a tack seal, with small, limited sealing surface areas, and are then sealed over the full surface area.

REMARKS

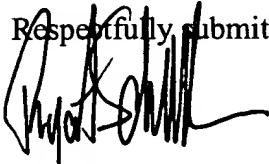
The present Preliminary Amendment is presented in an effort to provide Headings for the application, and to rewrite European style Claims 1-9 to conform to U.S. practice.

Should the Examiner have any questions or reservations regarding the present Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 404.885.2773.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, BOX: PATENT APPLICATION Washington, D.C. 20231, on 28 November 2000

Kimberly L. Weems
Name of Applicant/Assignee, or
Registered Representative
Kimberly L. Weems
Signature
November 28, 2000
Date

Respectfully submitted,


Ryan A. Schneider
Registration No. 45,083

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP
Bank of America Plaza, Suite 5200
600 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216
404.885.2773